

Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Spring 2006



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR LINDA V. PARKER ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

Governor Granholm's Plan to Grow Michigan:



Governor Granholm has a detailed and comprehensive plan to grow Michigan's economy. Her plan includes protecting

the financial security of Michigan families; giving our children the education they need in our 21st century economy; making health care more affordable and more accessible for hundreds of thousands of more people in Michigan; and because the foundation of a good life is the opportunity for a good job – she is fighting to protect the jobs we have, to bring good jobs to this state, and to diversify our economy by adding jobs in growing sectors. She has been consistent, disciplined,

and unwavering in working this plan – and it's already beginning to bear fruit.

Economic Opportunities

Michigan has the most aggressive economic plan in the nation. Our Jobs Today, Jobs Tomorrow plan is a comprehensive plan to grow jobs, to grow our state's economy, and to ensure that every person in Michigan has the opportunity to build a great life.

Governor Granholm has committed to "going

anywhere and doing anything" to create, retain, and grow jobs in Michigan.

The Governor's 21st Century Jobs Fund is the largest investment in diversifying our economy this state has ever seen. It will create tens of thousands of new jobs by investing more than \$2 billion in public and private funds to develop new sectors of our economy, including advanced manufacturing, homeland security and defense, the life sciences, and alternative

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Governor's Plan to Grow Michigan

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energy. This effort will create all kinds of jobs for all kinds of people – jobs that will not be outsourced, and jobs that will keep our children in Michigan.

By working her plan, Governor Granholm and her administration have:

- Led statewide efforts to increase the minimum wage which impacts so many Michigan women.
- Ensured that every state department, where possible, has policies to support flex-time and part-time workers so employees can be successful in their various roles.
- Continued to defend Affirmative Action policies in employment, education, and contracting. Diversity is key to Michigan's economic strength; and it ensures that every Michigan citizen has a fair chance to succeed.
- Partnered with Charter One Bank to provide \$200 million in low-interest loans to companies that commit to creating jobs in Michigan. Charter One is offering the loans at an interest rate two-and-a-half percent below today's prime rate to put needed capital in the hands of our businesses. These businesses will in turn create new jobs for Michigan citizens.
- Asked the federal government for an increase in the

allowable post-secondary education activities as part of the TANF requirements to help women and men attain higher paying employment.

- Supported the Office of Career Development's programs to introduce students to career options representative of all career pathways.

Protecting Our Health

Another part of Governor Granholm's economic plan is to make health care more affordable and accessible to more Michigan citizens; to use technology to vastly improve our health care industry's databanks; and to encourage citizens to take personal responsibility for healthy lifestyles.

By working her plan, Governor Granholm and her administration have:

- Appointed the nation's first Surgeon General and Chief Nurse to emphasize preventive health, and to highlight ways girls and women can engage in healthy lifestyles.
- Created a Blueprint for Preventing Unintended Pregnancies that includes increased access to family planning services for low-income women, passage of contraceptive equity—fairness at the pharmacy—for men and women, and a new pilot program, "Talk Early, Talk Often," designed to offer

parents help in talking with their middle school-age children about abstinence and sexuality issues.

- Received a Medicaid waiver from the federal government to extend family planning services to 200,000 women without health insurance coverage in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will now provide family planning services to women – ages 19 to 44 – who otherwise would not have medical coverage for these services.
- Protected a woman's right to choose.
- Promoted the safety, physical, and economic well-being and empowerment of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Established the Michigan Task Force on Cervical Cancer Awareness. The task force will assist the state in increasing the awareness of the importance of regular cervical cancer screenings.

Encouraging Inclusion

Governor Granholm firmly believes in a government of inclusion. Her administration has consistently received high rankings in the number of women in positions of leadership in her administration.

Governor Granholm has:

- Created a government of inclusion: 23 of the 44 policy leaders

in the Governor's administration, including department directors, are women.

- Encouraged the Michigan Women's Commission to work with the National Women's Political Caucus, the League of Women Voters, and other organizations to provide nonpartisan training to help women run for political office and participate in campaigns. Three training sessions were held – one each in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing, with about 100 women attending.
- Put her support behind The Michigan Women's Commission and the Women's Resource Center at MSU to host a "Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference March 30-31, 2006 to support mentoring programs for the women of tomorrow. This also reflects the Mentor Michigan program headed by First Gentleman Dan Mulhern, which ensures that all of our youth have ongoing relationships with stable, caring adults.

For more information about these and other Women's Agenda issues, visit the Michigan Women's Commission Web site at www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

Run, Girl, Run

The *Run, Girl, Run* workshops are completed. The non-partisan workshops were designed to inspire and support women to prepare for public office in an informal and supportive setting. The workshops provided over 100 women the tools needed to get ready to run a campaign and serve in public office. The workshops were held in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Farmington Hills from September through January.

In 2005, women in Michigan only held 29% of the State Senate seats and 17% of the State House of Representatives seats. Governor Jennifer Granholm is our first woman Governor in Michigan. In 2004, women comprised more than 51% of the population in Michigan and outvoted men in the last Presidential election by 3.8%.

The following organizations sponsored the workshops: Business & Professional Women of Michigan; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Godchaux Safford Group; Grand Valley State University; League of Women Voters of Michigan; Michigan Women's Campaign Fund; Michigan Women's Commission; National Women's Political Caucus of Michigan; Oakland Community College; and Women Officials' Network. The Sustaining Sponsors were Michigan Council of YWCAs; National Organization for Women, Michigan Chapter; and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan.

We thank everyone for their participation and sponsorship, especially Pan Godchaux and Susan Safford for their leadership. We look forward to seeing more women running for office in 2006!



Photo by Robert J. Egan, M.D.

Participants at Oakland Community College.

Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference

On Thursday, March 30 through Friday, March 31, 2006, the Michigan Women's Commission and the MSU Women's Resource Center, the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Office of Career Development, hosted the *Young Women, Strong Leaders* Conference at Michigan State University.

Almost 200 women from 27 higher education institutions attended the conference, as well as 45 mentors and speakers. Our speakers included the Governor, Dr. LouAnna Simon, Jean Doss, Dr. Nanette Reynolds, Janet Lawson, and numerous presenters at workshops. The *Young Women, Strong Leaders* Conference aimed to support the personal and professional development of young women who may not already consider themselves leaders. Through mentor relationships and

leadership training, participants were equipped with the tools to become student leaders at their institution and to become leaders in communities throughout Michigan in the future.



Jean Doss, (left) talks with students

Buy Michigan First Initiative

Buy Michigan First aims to increase awareness on how to do business with the State of Michigan, increase the number of businesses registering as vendors, increase the number of businesses bidding on state contracts, and increase awareness of resources available to small businesses in the State of Michigan. Roundtables will be held around the state from April through June.

During Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's recent State of the State address, she stated, "As part of our economic plan, last year I ordered our departments to buy Michigan first. Today, more than 85 percent of what the State of Michigan buys is sold to us by Michigan businesses." The state wants to increase that percentage to enhance the economy and create additional jobs.

Please go to www.michigan.gov/buymichiganfirst for more information.

Minimum Wage Increase

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and the Legislature celebrated the first increase in Michigan's minimum wage in nine years.

"This is a tremendous victory for our working families and for all of Michigan," Granholm said. "Without those citizens who overwhelmingly support this increase, it wouldn't have been possible. I want to thank all those Michiganians who have repeatedly and loudly called for Lansing to take action."

The Governor signed Senate Bill 318, PA 81 of 2006, which increases the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.40 per hour over the next two years. On October 1 of this year, the minimum wage will jump from \$5.15 to \$6.95 per hour. It will jump again to \$7.15 on July 1, 2007, and again to \$7.40 on July 1, 2008.

Granholm Expands Eligibility for Family Planning Services

In March, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced that the federal government has approved her administration's request for a Medicaid waiver to extend family planning services to 200,000 women without health insurance coverage in Michigan.

"We specifically requested this federal family planning waiver because we believe extending these services to low-income women across our state greatly increases the chance that every pregnancy in Michigan is a wanted one," Granholm said today. "If all pregnancies were intended, the state would see significant reductions in infant mortality, child abuse, child neglect, and abortion."

Through the state's new family planning waiver, the Michigan Department

of Community Health (MDCH) will now provide family planning services to women – ages 19 to 44 – who otherwise would not have medical coverage for these services.

Janet Olszewski, director of the Michigan Department of Community Health, said women at or below 185 percent of poverty who reside in Michigan and meet Medicaid citizenship requirements now qualify for the extension of services.

"We estimate that Michigan's Medicaid program will be able to offset \$274 million in Medicaid and avoid 19,400 unintended pregnancies that we would otherwise have had to absorb," Olszewski said. "Our Medicaid staff worked tirelessly with the federal government to seek approval of this waiver, and

we are extremely proud of their continued efforts."

In addition, Olszewski said the waiver does not include coverage for abortions or treatment of infertility. Eighteen other states have similar waivers for family planning services.

It is estimated that each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves an estimated \$3 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related care and medical care for newborns, according to national Medicaid research. MDCH's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS - a survey of maternal experiences and behaviors before and during a woman's pregnancy) data for the year 2001 shows that 40.6 percent of all pregnancies were unintended.

The total cost to Medicaid for the delivery of a baby and first year of life is \$11,528 – with the cost of delivery averaging \$6,197 and the cost of first year of life services averaging \$5,331. In FY 2000, the state Medicaid program paid for prenatal, delivery, and post-natal care of roughly 26,000 unintended births. Each birth cost Medicaid \$11,000, which translates to \$286 million in costs for Michigan.

If Michigan can reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by only 10 percent, it would save the state over \$27 million in Medicaid expenditures annually.

The waiver was part of Governor Granholm's agenda for women announced in August 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGISLATION 2005 – 2006

1. HB 4222 (Donigan) – the bill would create the Sexual Assault Victims' Forensic Medical Intervention and Treatment Fund. Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. (Please note correction of bill sponsor from winter newsletter)

2. HB 4745 & 4746 (Hummel) – bills would allow health insurance companies, HMOs and Blue Cross Blue Shield to Michigan to refuse to offer or provide a health care benefit on ethical, moral or religious grounds. Reported by House Insurance Committee and on the House floor for second reading.

3. HB 5043 & 5044 (Schuitmaker) – bills would update law that prohibits cutting or tapping telegraph and telephone lines and increase penalties for violations. Passed House and Senate, signed by Governor, PA 61 & 62 of 2006 with immediate effect.

4. HB 5175 (Bieda) - bill would provide fairness at the pharmacy by providing insurance coverage for contraceptives. Assigned to the House Insurance Committee. Michigan Women's Commission supports.

5. HB 5267 (Mortimer) – bill would require joint custody for children unless under certain circumstances. Assigned to the House Family and Children Services Committee.

6. HB 5311 (Stahl) – bill would require emergency contraception to be dispensed as a prescription drug and under the control of a licensed pharmacist or prescriber. Assigned to the House Health Policy Committee.

7. HB 5399 (Condino) – bill would allow second parent adoption. Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. Michigan Women's Commission supports.

8. HB 5879 – 5883 and SB 1177-1181 – bills would enact "Coercive Abortion Prevention Act." Assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Health Policy Committee.

9. SB 122 (Brater) & HB 4609 (Whitmer) – bills would provide for equal compensation for comparable work. The bills are assigned to the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor and the House Committee on Employment Relations, Training and Safety.

10. SB 431 & 432 (Scott & Hammerstrom) – bills would provide fairness at the pharmacy by providing insurance coverage for contraceptives. Assigned to the Senate Health Policy Committee. Michigan Women's Commission supports.

11. SB 436 (McManus) – bill would amend the Paternity Act to revise the definition of "child born out of wedlock." Assigned to the Senate Families and Human Services Committee.

12. SB 808 (Garcia) – bill would allow a rental agreement to be terminated when a tenant is a victim of domestic assault under certain circumstance. Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

For more information go to www.michigan.legislature.org

MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION TO DECIDE

In January, a coalition of organizations asked the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to issue a declaratory ruling that an employer's exclusion of prescription contraception from an otherwise comprehensive employee insurance plan is an unlawful employment practice under Michigan law.

We, the undersigned state and national organizations that advocate for women's rights, reproductive rights, civil liberties, and labor rights, are writing to urge the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to issue a declaratory ruling of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Mich. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 37.2202, § 37.2201, that would find that an employer's exclusion of prescription contraception from an otherwise comprehensive employee insurance plan is an unlawful employment practice under Michigan law. The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act specifically forbids

discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, which is defined to include "pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth." Id. We the undersigned strongly believe that excluding prescription contraception from an employee insurance plan that covers other prescription drugs and devices constitutes sex discrimination in violation of this law. The Commission has the authority to issue such a ruling under Mich. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 37.2601.

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is currently taking public comment on the issue of contraceptive equity. Comments should be addressed to George Wirth, Commission Counsel, Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, (313) 456-3792, wirthgn@michigan.gov.

Michigan Women's Commission
110 West Michigan, Suite 800
Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 373-2884 fax: (517) 335-1649
www.michigan.gov/mdcr

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CALENDAR

May – National Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month (www.teenpregnancy.org)

May 3, Wednesday – National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (www.teenpregnancy.org)

May 3, Wednesday – Michigan Women's Foundation, Women of Achievement and Courage Award Dinners, 5 p.m., Ritz Carleton Hotel, Dearborn. Tickets \$150. More information call: 1-800-404-4372.

May 11, Thursday – Michigan Women's Foundation, Women of Achievement and Courage Award Dinners, 5:30 p.m., Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids. Tickets \$150. More information call: 1-800-404-4372.

May 11 – June 2 – Farmington Hills, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Smith Theater "From Our Perspective Women's Art Exhibition" 248-522-3642

May 14, Sunday – Mother's Day – 1914 First National Observance

June 14, Wednesday – Michigan Women's Commission meeting, place to be determined (www.michigan.gov/mdcr)

Mailing List Update

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